



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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PSC Approves SBC Proposal to Lift Telephone Service Requirement

MADISON – The Public Service Commission (PSC) approved SBC Wisconsin's request to remove its legal designation as provider of last resort for long distance service in the Almond, Florence, Spread Eagle and Soo Lake exchanges. The change has no effect on existing customers in these exchanges.

Previously, SBC Wisconsin was required to be the provider of last resort in these areas, which means the company must provide long distance service to customers denied from other carriers. After fully reviewing the case, the PSC approved SBC's request to remove this obligation. Since SBC provides long distance service to less than 50 percent of the residential lines in these areas, there is enough competition to provide adequate service without appointing a new provider of last resort. The Commission found long distance service was readily available. In addition, there were no customer concerns voiced with the SBC proposal.

In 2002 and 2003, SBC Wisconsin was relieved of this obligation as provider of last resort in 325 other exchanges. In these instances, the Commission did not receive any significant numbers of customer complaints or comments as a result of discontinuing the service requirement. The past experiences indicate customers are able to find providers to meet their needs without SBC's participation in the market.

The documents associated with SBC Wisconsin's request can be viewed on our Electronic Regulatory Filing System at <http://psc.wi.gov/>. Click on ERF System, select Search Electronic Regulatory Filing System and enter docket #6720-TI-195.

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